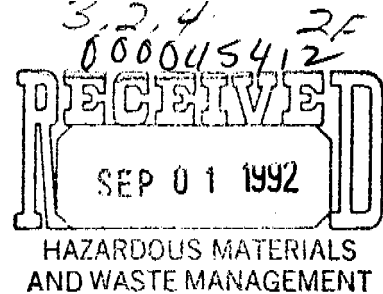


ATTN: GARY BAUGHMAN



1 August 26, 1992  
2 Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring Council  
3 1536 Cole Blvd., Suite 325  
4 Golden, Colorado 80401

5 Attn: Ginger Swartz  
6 Re: Solar Evaporation Ponds  
7 Ginger:

From: Walt Hessler, Jr. *WHA*

*Harlan*

8 I forward this recently obtained information relevant to the  
9 ongoing investigation and cleanup workplans for Operable Unit 4,  
10 the Solar Evaporation Ponds. Please review the attached brief  
11 testimony as revealed to my client Mr. John Tasker, and the  
12 corresponding interrogatories which I've structured so that his  
13 document might be properly investigated.

14 My client and I worked together in 1976, at a site near the  
15 Rocky Flats facility outside the Federal boundaries. We have  
16 been researching various items of concern since then. Currently  
17 he is in contact with a few employees who worked at the RF site  
18 in the early 1960's into the mid-1970's. These employees were  
19 welders and responded to numerous "situations" which happened in  
20 the 900 region, northeast of Building 776. Please note that  
21 they were "suited" quite often to work in these hot areas.

22 John and I have reviewed a few documents whereby the  
23 following sections are referenced:

24 -> CEARP April 1986 / Section III, page III-9;  
25 -> CEARP April 1986 / Section V, page V-19; specifically notes  
26 that the ponds "...were constructed over an extended period,  
27 beginning in the mid-1950s;" and "...the three B ponds were  
28 constructed during 1960;" whereas, "...pond C was constructed  
29 in 1970." "Pond C was constructed over the original clay-lined  
30 ponds;" "...ponds were a couple of clay-lined ponds."

31 -> Rocky Flats History: ChemRisk Report / Draft February 1992 -  
32 pages 203 and 204; brief discussion regarding the Pluto Program  
33 where "...CPC liquid waste was discharged into the solar ponds."

34 Numerous questions become relevant, however, one particular  
35 question: If pond C was constructed in 1970, and pond C was  
36 constructed over the original clay-lined ponds, as stated in  
37 CEARP, where is the "other" original clay-lined pond?

38 Referencing page 54 (Figure 3-6 circa 1971), 55 (Figure 3-7  
39 circa 1980), and page 56 (Figure 3-8 circa 1990) of the ChemRisk  
40 Report, please note the location of the various ponds. They are  
41 labeled 207A, 207B (north, center, south), and 207C. Now please  
42 review page 52 (Figure 3-5 circa 1964) and look at the aerial  
43 photograph (Figure 3-3 circa August 1954). The location of the  
44 unlabeled pond is positioned in an area which we could label the

Hessler: J.Tasker's Comments re: 207 Solar Evaporation Ponds

45 "original clay-lined ponds." Another particularly odd item on  
46 the exact location (1954 photo) of the unlabeled pond is what  
47 appears to be a stack. Notice the location relevant to Building  
48 771. Was the stack demolished and reconstructed? Was the  
49 material buried in the unlabeled pond? What was the size and  
50 depth of the original ponds?, and of the present pond C?

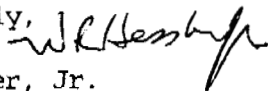
51 The attached testimony as stated to Mr. Tasker, is directly  
52 relevant to this area of the Solar Evaporation Ponds. Evidently,  
53 his contact witnessed the burying of various metal components in  
54 the exact location of these ponds (possible circa 1964-1969). The  
55 concern is that radioactive components could be buried beneath the  
56 clay-lined ponds. Therefore the numerous questions: how deep are  
57 the metal components?, what was the structure?, what substance  
58 was burning when it was buried?, and why hasn't any of this data  
59 been revealed or reported in CEARP, ChemRisk or any other report?

60 In reviewing the attached testimony, I correlate the event to  
61 be similar in description to the fire described in the ChemRisk  
62 Report (p.237 and 238). The employee stated they cut up a truck  
63 and other metal pieces, and buried it near the pond area. It  
64 would be conceivable to correlate the fire description with this  
65 event, whereas the burning metal components were buried as they  
66 burned. It appears certain machine/metal components were on  
67 pallets which were stored close together, ignited, and were  
68 pushed into a hole to be buried. The chemical reaction described  
69 as a bright sparking and a smoldering fire, suggests specific  
70 contaminated metals were buried.

71 Mr. Tasker's contact is primarily concerned with the present  
72 cleanup efforts that would overlook items beneath the solar ponds.  
73 The soil samples to be taken would probably utilize a drill rig  
74 positioned near the edges of the solar pond area. The depth would  
75 be limited to bedrock, thereby either missing the metal components  
76 all together, or having the drill bit bounce off what appears to  
77 be solid rock. Whereas conceivably the rock in this case would  
78 be a metal component. The soil sample result would indicate a  
79 contaminate which is finger printed to the previously reported  
80 substances dumped into the solar ponds. The concern is that the  
81 proposed testing might not provide the best investigative results.

82 Please review this information with skepticism, due to the  
83 fact that 25 years have passed. The testimony provided to Mr.  
84 Tasker is somewhat accurate, however, my efforts to correlate the  
85 data was intended to be helpful, not misleading. Thank you for  
86 your time in handling this request.

Respectfully,



Walt Hessler, Jr.  
(303) 238-8180

attachment: original letter and enlarged copy

cc: [ ] Tom Lukow, DOE  
[ ] Martin Hestmark, EPA  
[X] Gary Baugham, CDH